

SNAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

Meet Dr. David Penning,
a **national expert** on
scaly species

Professor **Conrad Gubera**
looks back on **50 years**

Alum **Nick Weis** –
professional sled-dog racer

MISSOURI SOUTHERN
STATE UNIVERSITY



Clayton Shilling, '13, International Studies, shared this photo taken at dusk in Old Havana during a recent visit.

A “People to People: Alumni in Cuba” trip is planned for May 18-25, through the Southern Safari program.

A photograph of a person walking on a street at sunset. The person is in the foreground, walking away from the camera. The street is paved and has some debris on it. In the background, there is a multi-story building with balconies and windows. The sky is a mix of orange and blue, indicating sunset. The overall mood is nostalgic and reflective.

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear alumni and friends,

Ralph Waldo Emerson referred to enthusiasm as “one of the most powerful engines of success.”

“When you do a thing, do it with all your might. Put your whole soul into it,” he said. “Stamp it with your own personality ... Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

In this Spring 2017 edition of Crossroads, you’ll discover the boundless enthusiasm found all across our great campus and beyond. You’ll meet Dr. David Penning, a biology professor whose passion for reptiles has been showcased by PBS and the Discovery Channel. You’ll catch up with Dr. Conrad Gubera, whose enthusiasm for teaching is unwavering after 50 years at Missouri Southern. You’ll also read about students who have dedicated themselves to music and community service, as well as alumni whose passions range from the stage to national and international competitions.

As always, we want to hear from you. If you’d like to share a story idea, photo, favorite memory or simply comment on something from this magazine, email us at crossroads@mssu.edu.

Have a great summer, Lions! We’ll see you again this fall!

Editor

Crossroads Magazine
Missouri Southern State University

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

As they say, you can't move forward without knowing where you've been.

This March, we took some time to recognize those who helped build our history through our first-ever reunion for Joplin Junior College (JJC) graduates. JJC alumni got a look at the college's former home at Eighth and Wall, and enjoyed reminiscing about their college days. It was a wonderful evening.

My hope is for all our alumni to stay connected to Missouri Southern for life. We want you to read our publications, follow us online, come to our events and continue to be an active member of the Lion family throughout your lifetime. I'm pleased to see our connections growing stronger with alumni, and to see our Lion community growing as our enrollment continues to increase.

And while these are great things to celebrate, there are still challenges facing our institution. Most of you have already heard about the deep cuts to state appropriations for higher education in Missouri, but I'll bet you didn't know that the withholdings proposed earlier this year would take us back to state funding levels of 2008. Virtually everything costs more in 2017 than in 2008, and we are serving many more students than a decade ago. Currently, state appropriations account for only 31 percent of our current revenue... and unfortunately it is headed south.

Accordingly, we have reduced staffing, eliminated several programs and student activities, curtailed vitally needed building expansions, and suspended valuable partnerships with other universities. It's not easy to do more with less, and usually it's impossible.

So, let me take just a moment to remind you of how important you are to the future of Missouri Southern. Simply, the generous and faithful support you provide helps make up for the shortfall caused by shrinking state support - and we need your help to keep your University strong.

By making a gift to Missouri Southern, you can help a young person get a start in the world. You can help enhance our programs and assist deserving students during this important time in their development. And, you can very deservedly feel the Lion Pride that we all share when we pull together as a family.

The work we do today, empowered by your gifts, will have a huge payoff tomorrow and for generations to come. So, as you enjoy this edition of *Crossroads*, please consider joining us in this important work by making a donation to the Missouri Southern Foundation.

We are all MSSU Lions – proud, confident and strong.



Alan D. Marble, Ph.D.
President, Missouri Southern



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LIONS

FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Over the past 13 years MSSU students and alumni have been a vital part of Rapha House's mission to end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

Will you join us?

RAPHAHOUSE
[LOVE-RESCUE-HEAL]

WWW.RAPHAHOUSE.ORG/LIONPRIDE

Left to Right(Name, MSSU Graduating Class, RH Involvement): Mike Blair '01(Donor & Supporter), Brandon Freed '94 (Development Director), Kristian Engle '18 (Donations Coordinator)
Lora Zaidarhzaeva '09 (Monthly Donor & Supporter), Ashlee Walter '18 (Content Writer), Joshua Foster '17 (Former Donations Coordinator) Travis Buchan '13 (CFO)

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FOCUS ON WHY

Drivers' eyes may have been diverted to our recent "Momentum" campaign billboards celebrating our many recent forms of progress.

The graphic representing a triangular formation composed of our faculty and students was most certainly visually captivating. But no matter how many times I passed by one of them, I always paused to reflect on the stories behind those proud faces. In the world of public relations, the message must evolve, and the "Momentum" billboards have been replaced with others sharing insights about our growing aspirations, accomplishments and accolades. To me, however, the notion of momentum lingers, and has evolved into what I conceptualize as MOSOmentum.

MOSOmentum (my definition: the spirit that envelops our campus and ignites our passion for learning and sharing of our collective wisdom each time we realize an opportunity to help a student succeed).

This concept of MOSOmentum reflects not just what we have accomplished – and there have been many significant points of progress. In the last few weeks alone we have seen our trumpet ensemble invited to compete in the National Trumpet Competition; we have received state approval to increase the number of nursing students we can enroll by 50 percent; we have been solicited to be a partner university for Disney World; we have introduced one of the nation's only, if not *the* only, universal transfer student degree completion option; and, we have offered invitations to our very first class of the Yours to Lose Advanced Medical School Acceptance Program, which simultaneously admits students to MSSU and to Kansas City University medical school.

All of these achievements are notably significant and unique for Missouri Southern – as they would be for any university anywhere. But on campus, behind closed doors, the engaged discussions that lead to these accomplishments almost always focus not on what or how, but instead on why.

Why we should do things is a critical question for all of us – for the faculty and the staff, for the administrators and the students. Why do we want to do this or that? Why should we invest here or there? Because without a good answer to the why question, none of it really matters.

Recent and consistent enrollment records here at Missouri Southern have not been accidental. We have targeted intentional and controlled growth as one objective to pursue. But we have not done so simply out of a vacant desire to grow. We have attempted to grow to serve the needs of our community, our region and our state. *That is why.*

We grow strategically, providing learning opportunities to students that will enhance their career readiness, allow them to add value to the workplace, and to fulfill their professional dreams. That is why we want to get bigger - not just to be bigger, but to provide more opportunity and enhance the vitality of the state.

Our commitment to you is that we will continue to work hard to serve our community and state, and to always know why we do what we do. And the why will always be because it benefits our students and our stakeholders – now and in the future.



Dr. Paula Carson
Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs



AROUND CAMPUS



HUMPHREYS ANNOUNCE \$1 MILLION SCHOLARSHIP GIFT

A generous \$1 million gift for the establishment of the Debra and David Humphreys Excellence Award was announced in January.

The Humphreys are known for their support for education in the region. David Humphreys has served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Joplin-based TAMKO Building Products since 1994, a company which his grandfather started in 1944. He and his wife, Debra, played an integral role in the establishment of Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School, an independent, private school founded in Joplin in 1993. Debra serves as chair of the school's Board of Trustees.

The Debra and David Humphreys Excellence Award will be given to Missouri Southern students over the next 10 years. The annual recipients of the award – Humphreys Scholars – will be graduates of high schools within 50 miles of Missouri Southern majoring in biological and physical sciences, mathematics, education, accounting, finance, engineering technology or computer science.

The funds awarded will cover at least 50 percent of their tuition for that school year.

"Missouri Southern State University serves a vital role making a college education available and affordable in our community," said the Humphreys. "We hope that our scholarship gift will help offset the financial burden of tuition and enable more students from Joplin and surrounding areas to obtain their college degree from MSSU."

FIRST YOURS TO LOSE COHORT ACCEPTED

Twenty-six incoming freshmen from across the midwest have been accepted into the Yours to Lose – Advanced Medical School Acceptance Program, which will launch its first class at the start of the Fall 2017 semester.

An exclusive partnership with the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, the program allows a cohort of Missouri Southern students to be admitted to KCU's new Joplin medical school at the same time they are accepted to MSSU. As pre-med students, they will obtain their bachelor's degree in biology during an accelerated, three-year course of study before seamlessly transitioning into their first year of medical school. The program will not require them to take the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT).

"This program adds a fantastic dimension to what Missouri Southern offers to these future physicians," said Dr. Richard Schooler, Dean of the School of Health Sciences at MSSU. "We feel that this program, along with other tracks, makes Missouri Southern the place to come for pre-med education."

Prospective members of the cohort visited campus this spring for interviews and to learn more about Missouri Southern.

"The intent of this program was to do something special to attract high-performing students who wanted to go into medicine to Missouri Southern," said Schooler. "What's unique about this program is it's designed around that student ... who, from Day 1, know they're going on to medical school."

Scholarships for students in the Yours to Lose program received a boost in December, thanks to a generous donations from the Joplin Tomorrow corporation.

Formed following the devastating tornado of May 22, 2011, the non-profit was developed with the backing of Sen. John C. Danforth to accept donations and provide low-interest loans to businesses recovering from the disaster. Approximately \$1.6 million was raised from donors across the country, and 24 loans were approved by the Joplin Tomorrow Board of Directors for businesses to rebuild and expand.

With their work complete, the board voted to transfer its remaining \$700,000 in assets to be used for scholarships for future medical students.



GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR NIXON HALL

Former Missouri Gov. Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon was the special guest at a late November groundbreaking ceremony for a new building that will bear his name at Missouri Southern.

Last fall, Missouri Southern's Board of Governors voted unanimously to name the new building for Nixon, citing his efforts to garner bipartisan support for the project as well as his support for Joplin following the 2011 tornado.

In June, the governor signed two bills providing more than \$16 million in funding for the current renovation of Reynolds Hall as well as a new building.

Located on the south side of Reynolds Hall, Nixon Hall will be connected via a skywalk off the main hall of Reynolds' second floor. Designed by Paragon Architecture, the three-story, nearly 20,000-square-foot building will feature classrooms and offices, primarily for STEM-field programs.



RIBBON-CUTTING HELD FOR LION CUB ACADEMY

A ribbon-cutting in late March marked the grand opening of Missouri Southern's Lion Cub Academy: A Child Development Center.

The center, formerly known as the Child Development Center and located in Taylor Hall, is now housed in the Joplin Regional Center building at 3600 Newman Road. Extensive renovations have created more space for the program as well as unique learning opportunities for both students and children.

"We've gone from being licensed for 59 kids a day to 92 a day," said Nikki Tappana, director of Lion Cub Academy. "Our new facility is amazing, and we're thrilled to be able to offer this kind of learning experience to our children."

continued next page



One of the most unique features of the Lion Cub Academy is the natural outdoor classroom, she said.

“Research shows that if children don’t spend enough time outside, it can affect their educational development,” said Tappana. “We’ve received a Farm to Preschool grant so we can raise some of our own vegetables. The grant came with educational supplies for children and we’ve purchased some raised beds.”

The center provides care for children of students, faculty, staff and alumni.

DISNEY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED

Thanks to a new partnership, Missouri Southern students now have the opportunity to earn college credit at the “Happiest Place on Earth.”

Eligible students can apply for an internship through the Disney College program, which offers a wide variety of academic opportunities, said Dr. Richard Miller, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences.

To earn credit for the experience, students must be at least a junior and have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, said Miller. Disney – which hosts thousands of interns each year – will match interns up with an appropriate position. For more information, visit <http://cp.disneycareers.com>.



GANDY, SCRIVNER HONORED

Two members of the Lion family were recognized this spring for their service to the community.



Alex Gandy, director of Career Services, received the 2016 Campaign Volunteer of the Year Award from the United Way of Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. The award is given in recognition of exceptional community service and dedication to the community. Gandy served as a member of Missouri Southern’s United Way Fundraising Committee.

Stacie Scrivner, director/department chair of Missouri Southern’s Dental Hygiene program, was recently honored among the 2017 Salute to Health Care class by the Joplin Regional Business Journal. The recognition is in honor of “the service and influence of professionals in the health care community,” according to the publication. Honorees were featured in a March edition of the Business Journal and at a dinner held March 30.

CELEBRATION OF KOREAN CULTURE

PLANNED FOR FALL 2017

By Dr. Chad Stebbins | Director, Institute of International Studies

Missouri Southern will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our nationally recognized themed semester program in Fall 2017 with the Korea Semester.

A faculty and student committee has been planning the events throughout the spring semester. The committee includes two Korean faculty members, Dr. Hyunjung Kim (communication) and Dr. Kyung Joe (management), and a student, Lauren Lant, who spent a semester at Sangmyung University in Seoul.

While the semester's focus will be on South Korea (the Republic of Korea), we do not want to overlook the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). It's hardly a Democratic nation; its totalitarian dictatorship and human rights abuses make it one of the most repressive nations that ever existed. Still, we cannot ignore the slightly larger, northern half of the Korean Peninsula and its impact on the Asia-Pacific Region and the U.S.-Chinese relationship.

We will celebrate the visual and music culture of South Korea, its innovative technology, the Korean martial art of taekwondo, Korea's unique alphabet (Hangul), and certainly the wonderful culture of Korean cuisine. The chef from Jin's Korean Grill in Springfield, Mo., will provide a cooking demonstration and share samples of his specialties. We'll also show some of the most popular Korean films throughout the semester.

We'll tackle some serious issues, too, such as the prospects of reunification with North Korea (One Korea), life near the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), defectors from North Korea and the religions and spirituality of the Korean Peninsula.

The English Department is in the process of selecting a "common reader," a book that will be read by students enrolled in composition classes. If it can be arranged, the author will be brought to campus in November to give presentations and to sign copies.

The Southern Symphony Orchestra's contribution to the Korea Semester will be to provide an original arrangement, for string orchestra and piano, of "Arirang" – the Korean folk melody (recognized in both Koreas) as roughly the equivalent of "America, the Beautiful." Dr. Jeffrey Macomber, orchestra director, is completing the arrangement.

The Southern Jazz Combo, under the direction of Dr. Phillip Wise, will perform an original composition for jazz ensemble based on traditional Korean folk music. The work will be premiered during the fall concert.

A TASTE OF HOME

Korean constituents
look forward to
themed semester

While he's been getting a taste of American culture as a visiting professor in the School of Business, Dr. Kyung Joe is excited that the campus will learn about his country during the Korea Semester in the fall.

"There is no exposure to Korea in this area, so I would like them to experience Korean culture; the Korea Semester is a casual way of introducing that," says Joe. Food, Korean Thanksgiving, traditional plays and karaoke are among some of the cultural highlights he hopes the campus will enjoy.

Other members of the campus community who call Korea home expressed their excitement for the Korea Semester and shared some of the cultural differences they've noticed during their time at Missouri Southern.

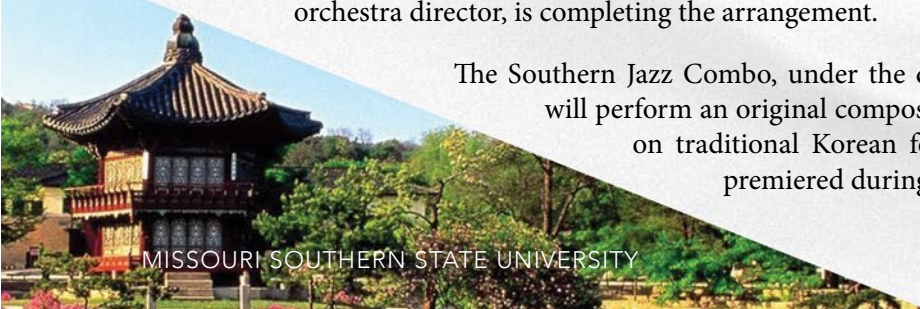
"There is more diversity here," says Dr. Hyunjung Kim, an assistant professor in the Communications Department. "The students in my Intercultural Communication class are the most culturally diverse class."

Exchange student Diana Kang says she came to Missouri Southern through a connection with the university she previously attended in Korea.

"People are very kind here and take really good care of me," she says. "Everyone says hi! In Korea, that does not happen. People here make eye contact."

Korean Thanksgiving is something Kang hopes Americans can learn more about during the Korea semester. It is known as 'Hangawi,' which means the 15th day of August according to the lunar calendar. Families gather at the home of their parents or grandparents and prepare a traditional meal, including rice cakes. Tradition holds that whoever makes the best rice cakes will have a pretty baby.

Joe, Kim and Kang each expressed hope that events such as the Korea Semester can help bridge the gap between cultures, and that people can come to understand that they have more in common than they do differences.



LIONS IN KC!

This spring, more than 50 alumni and friends were on hand to socialize and hear University updates at Cooper's Hawk Winery on The Plaza in Kansas City. Additional alumni events are planned for Springfield, Northwest Arkansas, St. Louis, KC and others. Be sure to update your contact info by emailing alumniassoc@mssu.edu and receive information on upcoming events in your area.



Alumni director receives Athena Award from Carthage Chamber

Lee Elliff Pound, director of the Missouri Southern Alumni Association, was the recipient of the Athena Leadership Award during the recent 2017 Carthage Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

The nationally recognized award is presented in honor of "professional excellence, community service and for actively assisting women in their attainment of professional excellence and leadership skills," according to the Athena International website. The local award is sponsored by the Ruth I. Kolpin Foundation and SMB Bank.

"It was a very nice surprise," says Pound. "The award is beautiful."

In addition to her duties with the Alumni Association, Pound serves as secretary of the Carthage School Board, vice president of the Carthage Community Foundation, a member of the artCentral and Carthage R-9 Foundation boards, and a member of Chapter AP of PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization), the Mimosa Garden Club, the Shakespeare Society and is an alumnae of Delta Gamma. In 2015, she was selected as one of 2015's Most Influential Women by the Joplin Regional Business Journal.



MOSO MONDAY

More than 100 business leaders and Plaster School of Business alumni packed the North End Zone Facility for MOSO Monday on March 6. MOSO Mondays are on-campus alumni events featuring news and updates from each of our four schools. MOSO Mondays featuring the School of Education and School of Health Sciences were held in the fall semester.





NEW ALUMNI AWARDS TO DEBUT WITH HOMECOMING

The Alumni Association is expanding the number of annual awards recognizing exceptional alumni and friends of Missouri Southern.

Beginning with Homecoming 2017 – set for September 25-30 – the following awards will be presented:

DISTINGUISHED ALUM AWARD

The Distinguished Alumnus Award will recognize a graduate who has achieved remarkable success in their profession and/or has made outstanding contributions to their community, state or nation. Nominees must be at least 25 years from their date of graduation.

OUTSTANDING ALUM AWARD

The Outstanding Alumnus Award will recognize a graduate who has achieved remarkable success in their profession and/or has made outstanding contributions to their community, state or nation. To be eligible, nominees must have graduated between 10 and 24 years ago.

OUTSTANDING FAMILY AWARD

The MSSU Outstanding Family Award will be given to a multi-generational family of Missouri Southern Lions. The family must have made a significant impact on the university. Only current students who are in a second or more generation of Joplin Junior College, MSSC or MSSU are able to nominate their family.

LION-HEARTED AWARD

The Lion-Hearted Award will be presented to an individual who embodies the true heart and soul of Lion spirit and has made significant contributions to the institution, either through financial or voluntary assistance. Nominees do not have to be graduates of Missouri Southern.

SPIRIT OF SERVICE AWARD

The Spirit of Service Award will be given to an alumnus who consistently makes significant contributions to the communities in which they live through their time, actions, talents and dedication. This award does not factor in service to Missouri Southern, but rather to the communities in which the nominee lives. Nominations for those outside the Joplin area will be accepted and encouraged.

We need your help in nominating deserving MSSU Alumni for these awards! To nominate someone, please visit the “Alumni and Giving” page at www.mssu.edu or email alumniassoc@mssu.edu.

ALUMNI GATHER FOR JOPLIN JUNIOR COLLEGE

Reunion

More than 150 former students and guests gathered for the first-ever Joplin Junior College reunion, held March 31.

The reunion kicked off with visitors becoming reacquainted with what is now Memorial Education Center at 310 W. Eighth St., before a historical presentation by Brad Belk, director of the Joplin Museum Complex.

Initially housed in 1937 at that location (then Joplin High School), the junior college found a new home at Fourth Street and Byers Avenue in 1938. It would later move back to its original building. The college remained at that location until transitioning into a four-year school in 1967 at the former Mission Hills estate (now Missouri Southern State University).

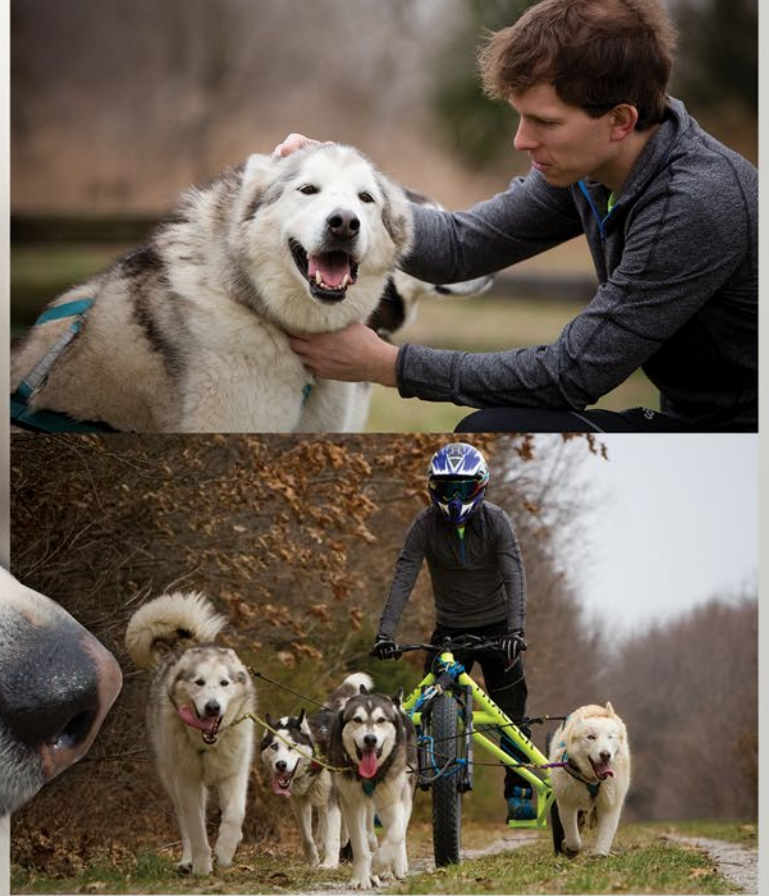
Reunion activities resumed at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, with a social hour, dinner and special program.

"The Joplin Junior College reunion was a terrific opportunity to gather our alumni from our first graduating class of 1939 to the late 1960s," said Lee Elliff Pound, Director of Alumni and Constituent Relations. "Everyone had a great time reminiscing and we had a wonderful response to this event. We look forward to having more reunions for this special group of alumni."

"We look forward to having more reunions for this special group of alumni."







MUSH!

Missouri Southern grad forges a path in competitive dogsledding

The team is restless; eager to be on the move.

The five dogs – Ruger, Denali, Calypso, Prudhoe and K2 – are harnessed and ready, whining and shuffling their feet as they wait for the signal from their owners to start running.

And when it comes, they take off down the trail, pulling the bright yellow racing rig behind it. Behind the wheel is Nick Weis, offering his dryland mushing team encouragement as they pick up speed.

Seeing this team of sled dogs on the move isn't an uncommon sight along the Frisco Highline Trail north of Springfield, Mo. Weis and his wife, Joy, will often bring them out to train when the weather is nice.

The 2009 Missouri Southern graduates say raising sled dogs and participating in the racing circuit was never their intention. The hobby simply snowballed as a result of their love for the animals.

One, two, three ...

As a child, Nick Weis always wanted a dog ... but not just any dog would do. He wanted a malamute – a large, powerful Arctic breed known for its ability to haul heavy freight across rough terrain.

Wanting and getting are two different things, however.

"My parents never let me get one," he says. "We always got our dogs from a shelter. We ended up getting a dog named Lucky found as a stray."

“Fast forward 14 and a half years and Lucky was living with me and my wife, and I noticed that he was really slowing down. My brother has a German short hair mix, about 2 years old. When he came over with him, Lucky would get up and go play. I thought it would be a good idea to get a puppy and it was time to get a malamute.”

They adopted Ruger, whose high-energy nature quickly became apparent.

“If he didn’t get out and run, he was going to destroy our house,” says Weis. “I started running with him and doing some research to find better ways for Ruger to get exercise. I learned about canicross – which is basically a discipline of dog sledding, where you run cross country with your dog.”

Weis, who ran track and cross country at Missouri Southern before being sidelined by an injury, immediately took to canicross.

“My wife saw how much fun I was having and she decided she wanted a dog, too,” he says.

Enter Denali. Then the question became, “Why not three dogs?” Meet Calypso. Then, as the snowball effect continued, came Prudhoe and K2.

“We’ve added about one dog a year,” says Weis. “We have six dogs now ... five that are sled dogs.”

For canicross events, Weis wears a waist belt that is hooked to one of the dogs, allowing them to run together. For dryland mushing events, the dogs are harnessed together to work as a team as they pull the rig.

While Ruger is a purebred malamute, the others are rescues and husky mixes ... not as well-suited for covering 10 to 30 miles across snowy terrain. Therefore, he and his dogs from his Lucky Fox Kennel in Lebanon, Mo., primarily focus on canicross events.

“To do well, you have to be a good runner and have a dog that listens well,” he says.

A stronger bond

Weis, who works as an investment manager in Lebanon, Mo., was recently named as an alternate for the U.S. national canicross team in the dryland competition. The world championships will be held in November in Poland.

“Races are typically two-day events,” says Weis. “They’re anywhere from 1.2 to 5 miles. You run on a Saturday and then run Sunday and the judges combine the times together over two days to determine who was the fastest.”

Depending on the weather, Weis runs with his dogs five to seven days a week.

“In the summer it can get pretty warm, so we’ll train when it’s cool enough,” he says. “Sometimes they’ll train as a team by pulling an ATV or the dryland rig, which is a cross between a mountain bike and a tricycle. That’s what a lot of people who have dog-sled teams in warmer climates use to train.”

Weis secured a first-place win during a recent competition in Wisconsin, but didn’t fare as well during a race in Quebec.

“We had a little bit of difficulty,” he says. “That was the furthest we have gone for a competition and the dogs didn’t travel as well as we hoped. But it was the biggest race in North America, so we can’t be too disappointed.”

On this unseasonably warm spring afternoon, Weis is training for an upcoming race in New Jersey.

The five dogs are noticeably more relaxed afterward, having expended some of their pent-up energy along the trail. They eagerly drink up as their owners stop by each one with a cooler of water and some well-earned treats.

“We come down here almost every weekend when it’s warm enough,” says Joy Weis.

While Nick enjoys the competitive aspect of canicross and mush racing, it’s the love for his dogs that makes it all worthwhile.

“Everyone knows the bond you get with a pet dog,” he says. “But it’s so much stronger when you’re working toward a common goal. My dogs and I are up at 4 a.m. every morning to train ... the bond is so much more.”





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INSTITUTIONAL *memory*

Dr. Conrad Gubera
reflects on 50 years
at Missouri Southern

Fifty years in the classroom ... that's quite an accomplishment.

"Is it?" asks Dr. Conrad Gubera, professor of sociology. "I guess I'm undervaluing it, or taking it for granted. You get up, do what you're supposed to do and then go home every day. The days blend into weeks, the weeks into months, months into semesters, semesters into years and years into decades. To me, you just do it."

"An accomplishment ... well, I can say that I still get the same thrill I did when I first started teaching."

Gubera, a professor of sociology, is marking his 50th year of teaching at Missouri Southern, having come to the new campus in 1967 as it was getting off the ground. Engage him in conversation about his time at Southern, and it's easy to get caught up in the sweep of history – both on campus and nationally.

Below are excerpts from a recent conversation with Dr. Gubera.

The '60s

A graduate of Pierce City High School, he studied at Joplin Junior College before completing his bachelor's degree in 1962. It was while teaching at Mount Vernon High School that he was first approached by Dr. Leon Billingsly about a teaching position at Joplin Junior College, which was on the verge of transitioning into a four-year program on a new campus.

"I first met Dr. Billingsly during a pickup basketball game in Mount Vernon. He took his shoes off, loosened his tie and took off his coat. I decked him the first time, and I could tell he didn't like it. He was very competitive. I didn't see the light of day from there on out."

Gubera taught history and sociology from 1963-65 at Joplin High School and then took Billingsly up on his offer to help launch the sociology program at Missouri Southern.

"The '60s were such an exciting time, when we were beginning to ask some real questions. Sociology was the No. 1 course on college campuses in the mid-'60s. We looked at other college catalogs to see the courses they offered in sociology. We wanted to offer courses that could transfer to our sister schools in the state and build our accreditation on that."

"As president, Dr. Billingsly could make a decision and was really good at handling people. He was able to get things done with the Missouri Legislature ... he had an informal relationship with them that I've never seen another college president have."

"There was a consciousness among students in the 1960s that we don't quite have today. We first came onto this campus right before (the Tet Offensive) in 1968. At the heart of 1967 was the draft. They didn't have a lottery yet, so there were students trying to do anything they could to keep out of the draft."

"Everybody remembered where they were when they heard about Kennedy's assassination. We were still fresh in the memory of that, then there were the two assassinations in '68 (Bobby Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.), and certainly that awful Democratic National Convention in 1968."

The '70s

"The war was still driving everything. Students on campus did a bit of demonstrating. We held a public forum here to debate the war, with two of the youngest professors on campus (including myself) and two of the oldest."

"In 1975, there were rumors that the college would be closed and be made into a state prison. That was right before the state system took over and we began to rise from the ashes, so to speak."

The '80s

Following the death of Dr. Billingsly in 1978, Dr. Donald C. Darnton became Missouri Southern's president. After his three-year tenure, the campus would look closer to home when it came time to select a new president – Dr. Julio León, a faculty member from the School of Business who later served as its dean.

"(León) was fun, he was inventive and creative and he was listening. We'd grown up with him, and he ran a damn good ship. Everyone wanted him to succeed and he did a great job. He and I didn't agree on some things, but he always supported me."

The '90s

By the end of the 1980s, many on campus had started looking outward to gain an international perspective, says Gubera.

"I got my first international grant to go to Jordan and Egypt. We started a summer in Oxford program that lasted for about a dozen years. In 1991, I visited the Palestinian territories, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq."

"In 1990, the Social Sciences Department had a colloquial on the fall of the Berlin Wall. In '91, there was another on the death of the Soviet Union, and in '93 it was about the peace accords between Israel and Palestine. Dr. León watched those very carefully and the coverage that they received.

"The state of Missouri had announced that each college should have a specialized mission, and Dr. León announced that ours would be global. He thought it was a really good match for our campus and would give us distinction. The International Piano Competition ... looking back, that was a marvelous thing. It was outstanding for this campus to have that kind of recognition."

The 2000s

While students in the 1960s were deeply affected by Kennedy's assassination, the events of Sept. 11, 2001, rocked the world view of a new generation.

"9/11 was almost like 'Star Wars.' The massiveness of it was incomprehensible. How can you imagine those buildings falling? If you stood beside them and looked up as I did any number of times, you think, 'They have to be one of the wonders of the world.' And then they collapse in a day? When students talk about it, it's like they're talking about a giant disaster film."

In December 2016, Gubera was invited to give the commencement address for Missouri Southern's 67th graduating class. In his speech, he touched on his years of teaching, memorable faculty members, his pride in having all four of his children attend MSSU and his hopes for them in the future.

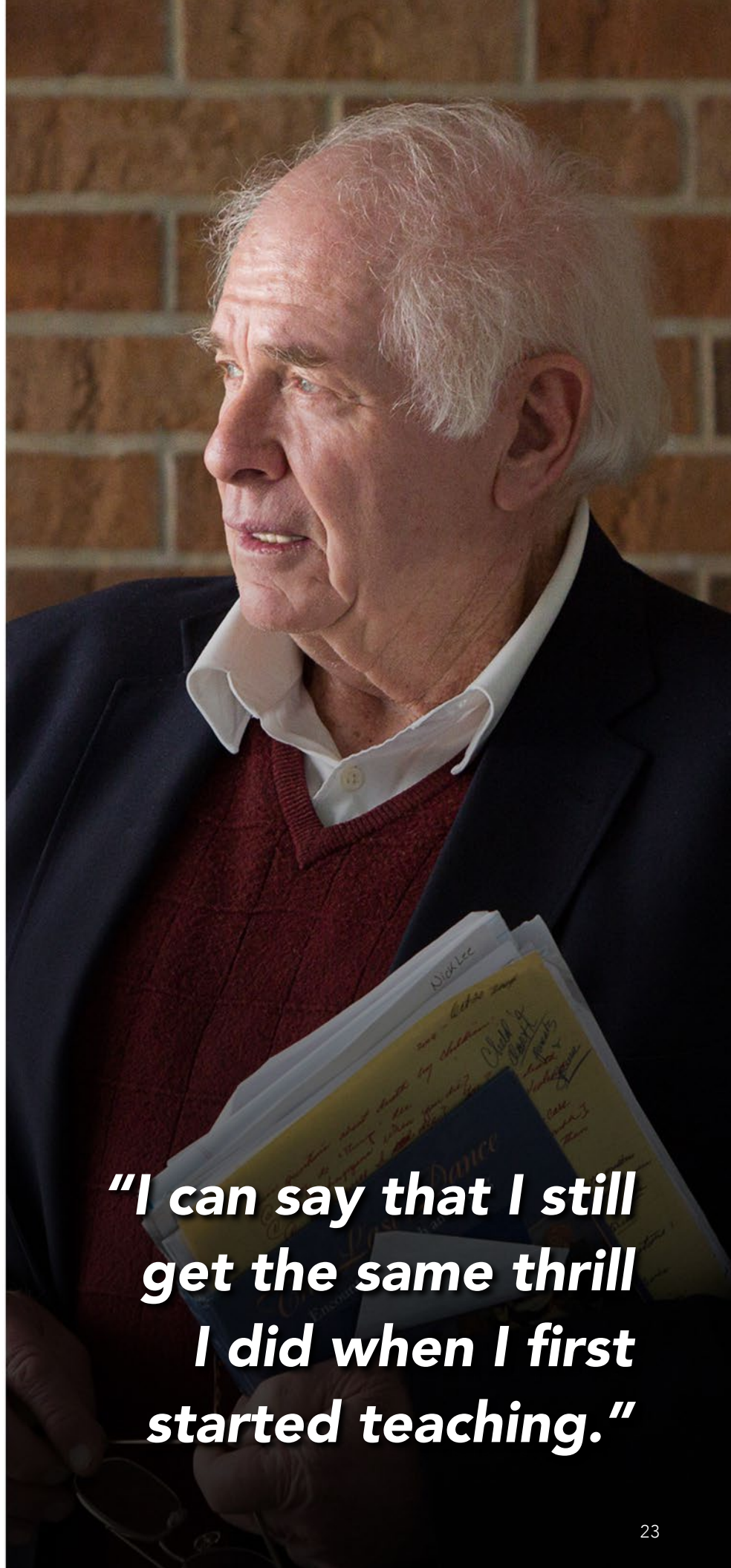
Looking back, Gubera says he's pleased with how the university has developed over the years.

"In our first 10 years, we played it pretty fast and loose as we piecemealed the program together. Our students are far better than they were then, and our classes are far better now.

"We have some of the very best students I've seen in my entire life at Missouri Southern today. I just got out of my Sociology of Death and Dying class. I got one sentence on the board and the students were already elaborating on that and taking it to new levels."

And then comes the inevitable question ... What next?

"I'm beginning to think about retirement. I set my goal to retire with the first 50-year class here, in 2019. I think that would be a good time to exit."



**"I can say that I still
get the same thrill
I did when I first
started teaching."**



KEEPING AN ION PROGRESS

Reynolds renovations bring big improvements to chemistry, physical science programs

With renovations to the third floor of Reynolds Hall completed, students returning for the Spring 2017 semester finally got a look at the new classrooms and lab areas.

“As one of the Lab preppers for the General Chemistry classes, I see how much better the new labs are,” said Cole Corlett, senior biochemistry major. “We have more counter space and the new hoods are fantastic.”

“The student lounge is also a big plus because if I’m working on homework, my professors are just down the hall.”

Reynolds became the second campus building ready for occupancy when it was completed in May of 1967. An expansion in 1988 nearly doubled its size.

Last year, former Gov. Jay Nixon announced funding to allow for much needed renovations to the building, which houses the biology, environmental health, physical science and mathematics programs. House Bill 19 provided \$5.2 million for the project, while House Bill 17 contained an additional \$1.5 million, which was matched by private contributions from alumni and other sources.

The newly renovated third floor features physics, chemistry and geology labs, a study area equipped with Wi-Fi and hard-wired data drops, a tiered lecture hall and faculty offices, as well as new equipment.

Dr. Marsi Archer, chair of the Chemical and Physical Sciences Department, said the new labs provide a safer environment and one that is more conducive to learning.

“Before, we provided a really good education in spite of our surroundings,” said Archer. “Now our surroundings enhance the learning experience.”

She and Corlett both cited the new DSR Raman spectrometer as one of the more exciting additions to the building. The device is used in chemistry to provide a fingerprint by which molecules can be identified.

Having completed work on the third floor, renovation work proceeded to the first floor, which will primarily house biology labs, classrooms and offices. Those classes were moved to a temporary home in the nearly 13,000-square-foot Reynolds Annex building, located on the southwest side of campus.





SNAKE, RATTLE & ROLL

Meet Dr. David Penning – a national expert on scaly species

The massive snake is estimated to have been dozens of feet long, and able to exert between 200 and 400 pounds of constriction pressure per square inch.

Be happy you weren't around to take a stroll during the early Cenozoic Era. If it were to have gotten ahold of you ...

"You're not going to make it," says Dr. David Penning. "If you take what exists today and estimate what the Titanoboa could do, it would be the equivalent of an Abrams tank sitting on your chest."

Penning, an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and Environmental Health, recently lent his expertise in the snake world to "Secrets of the Dead: Graveyard of the Giant Beasts," which aired on PBS in November. Penning and other researchers focused on reconstructing the *Titanoboa cerrejonensis* and how it would have behaved.

"It's an extinct snake from about 65 million years ago," says Penning. "The question was, 'How does that animal work?' There's nothing that size today ... not even close. But we do have a range, which can help us predict what Titanoboa might have been able to do."

Jaw pieces and other fossils helped researchers reconstruct the predator's appearance, while Penning studied constriction pressure and high-speed striking behavior.

It's not the first time the instructor – who joined the faculty at Missouri Southern in the fall of 2016 – has been tabbed to share his knowledge of snakes and other members of the reptile world. His interest in the subject stretches all the way back to his youth, growing up in Lawson, Mo.

"Honestly, when I was younger, I was a little scared of (snakes)," he says. "But I was intrigued by them. They don't have arms, they

don't have legs, but they're everywhere and they're dominant predators. As a kid, I was really confused by that.

"How do they crawl? How are they going faster than me? And how can I not catch them?"

That curiosity and interest in unraveling those mysteries continued through his undergraduate and master's degree studies at the University of Central Missouri, and later during his doctoral research at the University of Louisiana.

Originally, his graduate studies were headed in a different direction. The pace, however, proved to be a bit slower than he would have liked.

"The initial plan for my master's degree was to look at the way tortoises grow, and how they grow differently in captivity," says Penning. "It turns out that doing a project on a slow-growing species in a time limited to two years is probably not the best way to do it."

Still, he has four tortoises that he keeps as pets. He admits they're not for everyone.

"They generally don't make good pets for people who aren't 'all-in,'" he says of the species, which can live upwards of 200 years. "It'd be like a dog that is really high maintenance and will always be there."

"They'll go in my will, so hopefully my kids – when I have them – will really like tortoises."

Snakes and other limbless reptiles remain his primary focus, as well as a subject of intense fascination.

Penning also has four tortoises that he keeps as pets. He admits they're not for everyone.

"It'd be like a dog that is really high maintenance and will always be there."

"As far as movement, snakes externally look very simple," says Penning. "They're a tube with a head and a tail. But internally, they all have roughly 15,000 to 20,000 muscles. The complexity is absolutely crazy. They have about 200 to 250 vertebrae and two ribs on each. It's the muscles pulling back and forth that allows them to move. They can use their belly scales as little shovels, allowing them to move, or they can push against things or sidewind."

"Engineers would love it if we could identify which muscles are active when they're moving. They can't model snake movement very well because they don't know what parts are pulling where in the real thing."

His studies have also focused on snake strikes and the misconceptions surrounding them.

"For about a century, all popular literature and a lot of scientific literature continued to say that rattlesnakes and vipers are the fast ones," says Penning. "Myself, my Ph.D. advisor and an undergraduate student were studying common black rat snakes ... just common, harmless snakes ... and filming them striking."

"We compared them with cottonmouths and diamondback rattlesnakes. Harmless snakes strike just as fast. In hindsight, it's a thing that's obvious, but no one had tested it. They all have to eat. They all have to defend themselves. It makes sense."

In addition to his research appearing in peer-reviewed and popular publications, he has been featured on "Prehistoric Megabeasts: Croc vs. Snake," which debuted last fall on the United Kingdom's Channel 4 and the Discovery Channel's "Daily Planet" program. The Discovery Channel visited Penning again in March to film a segment regarding his



George, Penning's
African Sulcata Tortoise.

dissertation studies of how snakes eat other snakes that may be competitors for the same prey.

Also in March, Penning and Brad Moon, an associate professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, published “How the Kingsnake Earned its Crown: Snake-Eating Snakes are Stronger than the Snakes They Eat” in The Journal of Experimental Biology. They measured constriction performance by 182 snakes from six species to determine why kingsnakes are able to generate higher constriction pressures.

While there are no boas or pythons to be found, Penning says the Southwest Missouri region has its share of snakes.

“There are black rat snakes, king snakes and bull snakes here,” he says. “There are a lot of native snakes that can constrict. I haven’t seen any yet, but there are a few different viper species around.”

Penning currently teaches biology courses for majors and non-majors and eventually hopes to add herpetology and several other courses to the schedule.

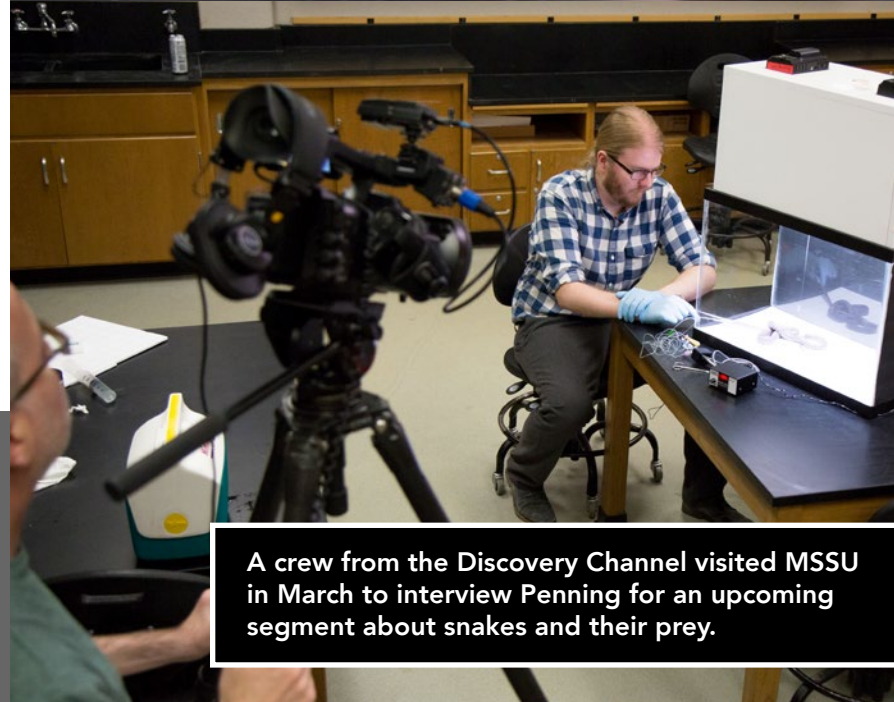
“I already have three or four undergrads talking about doing research – venturing into turtles, bite force and all sorts of good stuff,” he says.

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Dr. David Penning gave two presentations at the eighth World Congress of Herpetology held in August 2016 in Hangzhou, China.

The presentations were “Hail to the King: Morphology and Performance of an Intraguild Predator and their Prey” and “The Scaling of Bite Force and Constriction Performance in Kingsnakes: Proximate Determinants and Correlated Performance.”

He also presented during the 29th meeting of the Missouri Herpetological Association in September 2016 at Bull Shoals Field Station near Kirbyville, Mo., and at the 43rd meeting of the Kansas Herpetological Society in November 2016 at Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo.



A crew from the Discovery Channel visited MSSU in March to interview Penning for an upcoming segment about snakes and their prey.



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IN SPECIAL MEMORY OF DR. KIP HETH



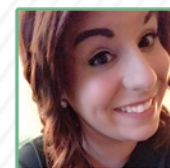
BONNIE CHASTAIN

Hands down my most memorable moments were with my biology professor **Dr. Heth**, who recently passed away. He was so passionate about the environment and biology that it inspired me to go down the same path that he did. My very first semester in Bio 101 we spent a day cleaning out the biology pond of invasive species and the little wooded area behind it. We would spend lab days outside learning about nature. In Bio 111 we did studies on local creeks and the precious MSSU prairie. Today I'm a senior at MSSU pursuing a degree in ecology/conservation/biology. I wish I could go back in time to thank him for being such an important teacher in my life.



FAWN HAITH

Hands down, without a doubt, **Mrs. Charlotte Olinger Hopper**. She was one of my first instructors when I made the plunge back into college after 20 years out. She was the best blend of accepting of all of us stuck in a Comp 202 night class, and tough enough to push us to exceed our notions of what we thought we could accomplish. She could discuss everything from the baseball game on that night to the "Sherlock" TV series. Her class helped me decide to go from part time to full time and I've never looked back! Forever thankful for her Comp 202 class.



KAETLYN TAUNTON

Dr. Mike Lawson has got to be one of the best professors that I've ever had. His tests were always really hard, but he always made sure you knew what you were talking about. I've used a lot of what I've learned on the PCAT and now I'm even applying the knowledge in Med. Chem. II at UMKC Pharmacy School. I can't thank him enough for being hard on us. Professors like him help students like us move on to bigger and better things.



HANNAH BURGESS

One of my most memorable instructors so far has been **Dr. Steven Wagner**. While I have never been one to love the subject of history, he made it interesting to me. It always felt as if he was simply telling us great stories rather than just trying to get us to memorize dates, people and events.



REX J BURTRUM II

Dr. Conrad Gubera will always be my favorite memory from MSSU! He not only kept the class hanging on his every word, but his occasional pun would lighten the lectures to no end. He taught you the truth and didn't sugarcoat the details. Made classes that I actually looked forward to attending and assignments that I enjoyed completing.



BRAYDEN KYGER

Brett Peine and everyone else in the EMS education program. I learned more than just patient care and skills and knowledge to do so. I learned that your instructors and class mates become family and you can talk to them about anything that is going on in your life and they are willing to listen.

THEY'RE DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Professional clothing drive helps Lions look their best

Emerging from Billingsly Student Center's Connor Ballroom with several neatly wrapped clothing items on hangers, Lisa Deese calls her shopping trip a success.

"There was a personal assistant to walk you around and help pick out clothes," the senior nursing major says. "And for the girls, there were shoes and all kinds of accessories ... hand bags, jewelry, scarves – it's the full ensemble for a woman, which is great."

Deese – who says the clothing will come in handy for job interviews and an upcoming Model EU event – was among more than 200 students who attended Dress to Impress on March 15. The annual event helps students and alumni expand their professional wardrobes to prepare for the Spring Career Fair, job interviews and other activities. Donated clothing filled the racks lining the ballroom, with volunteers available to help visitors pick out items to wear.

The program is a joint effort between Missouri Southern and the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Network.

Alex Gandy, director of Career Services, says donations for the third annual Dress to Impress were plentiful this year.

"We had more shoes donated than ever before," he says. "Shoes are a very expensive item ... one of the bigger obstacles for students when they're going into the professional workforce."

"We also had a lot of great suits for guys. Dr. Al Cade (who passed away in 2015), his old wardrobe was donated to us. That was very, very special."

All items that were not selected by students were donated to Crosslines Ministries. The non-profit organization in Joplin maintains a collection of professional clothing for those that they serve.

Martha Getz, communications coordinator for the chamber, has volunteered for Dress to Impress every year since the event was launched.

"It really is a transformative experience for a lot of these students," she says. "Several commented this morning that all they have in their closets are T-shirts and jeans. They've never owned a three-piece suit or had a pencil skirt and heels before."

"You can watch their confidence build as they come out of the fitting room and see what the next step in their life is going to be like."





BEACON
OF

Hope

Junior Haley Henry receives annual award named for Dr. Al Cade

Missouri Southern junior health promotion and wellness major Haley Henry is this year's recipient of the Dr. Al Cade Beacon of Hope Service Award.

The award, instituted last year, was presented at the annual MLK Day Celebration Breakfast on Jan. 16 at Missouri Southern.

The annual award is named for Cade, longtime Missouri Southern faculty member and Dean of the School of Education, who passed away after a long battle with cancer in 2015. Cade was well-known for his service to others.

"I was so honored and taken aback when I was told about the award," says Henry, who was nominated by kinesiology faculty member Dr. Andrea Cullers.

"I've always had a passion for helping people with any kind of disability," says Henry, who is working toward a career in pediatric occupational therapy. "One summer I had an A+ class position that involved taking kids with physical and mental challenges to therapy. I saw the impact of the clinicians' work and fell in love with the idea of helping people to be the best they can be."

Henry is a Resident Assistant on the Missouri Southern campus. She also is the vice-president of the Caduceus Club, a campus organization designed for students contemplating careers related to medicine. In that position, she has helped bring healthcare professionals to campus to talk to students.

For the past year, she has been heavily involved in an organization called Love Your Melon, which is dedicated to fighting cancer. She currently heads up the organization's local public relations efforts.

Love Your Melon, originally started by two high-school students, makes beanies, caps and hats. Fifty percent of profits from hat sales goes to pediatric cancer research. Also, for every piece of headgear that is sold, a hat is given to a child battling cancer.

Henry has also volunteered in the children's ministry and helped with other events at the New Site Baptist Church in Monett. Since 2015, she has donated her time to efforts closer to Joplin including the Ronald McDonald House, the Watered Gardens homeless shelter, Lafayette House and the Victory for Haiti Mission.





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"Unity"

I loved the fact that with the mud it kept their features more pronounced but at the same time their skin color was one. It spoke to who we were as human; both our individuality, uniqueness and bond.

Rachel Edington

Photographer, Missouri Southern alum

To submit a photo for consideration, please email crossroads@mssu.edu.



HOWE RECEIVES *2017* *Governor's* *Award* FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Elke Howe came to the United States planning to stay for only a year, but – to Missouri Southern's benefit – it didn't work out that way.

The professor and department head of Engineering Technology is the 2017 recipient of the Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. She was honored at a ceremony in Jefferson City on April 5.

Howe, who grew up in Germany, says her interest in engineering technology sprang out of a love for chemistry.

"I got a certificate related to chemistry," she says. "Later, I found chemistry helped me a great deal when I was studying plastics engineering. I also loved math so it was a good combination of skills."

She moved to the United States in 1989, originally planning only to stay about one year. Her husband came to attend flight school at Fort Scott, Kan., before returning to Germany to find work.

"I arrived with three suitcases and a bicycle," she says. "In the end, we decided to stay. It's interesting how things develop, especially when you're young and feel you can do almost anything."

Howe, a Six Sigma Black Belt, has a bachelor's degree in engineering technology and a master's in business administration. She later obtained her doctorate in education from the University of Arkansas. Before coming to Missouri Southern in 2001, Howe worked as a sales engineer for MAMTC in Pittsburg, Kan., and as a process engineer for U.S. Precision Lens headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Education is presented to an outstanding faculty member from each of Missouri's four-year higher-education institutions.

"I am humbled, honored, and grateful to receive this award, especially because I work with colleagues who are just as deserving," Howe says. "I feel privileged to work at Missouri Southern and to be able to make a difference in students' lives as a teacher, advisor and mentor."

BRINGING IT HOME

**Jimmy Noriega, '05, stages acclaimed production of
'Women of Ciudad Juárez' to MSSU**





When Teatro Travieso presented its acclaimed production of “Women of Ciudad Juárez” in January, it marked a homecoming for director Jimmy Noriega.

While he had been involved in theater as far back as an elementary student, it was at Missouri Southern that he realized his potential as a director.

“I started out (at Missouri Southern) as an actor,” he says. “But I took a directing class and realized I had a strength. It gave me the confidence to do it and the awareness of something I was good at.”

“Women of Ciudad Juárez” gives voice to the voiceless – the countless female murder victims from Juárez, Mexico. From mothers and daughters, factory workers and prostitutes, family members and police investigators, the play speaks out against what the production notes call “a gross display of injustice.”

The original production – written by Mexican actress Cristina Michaus – was staged in monologue form as a one-woman show. It ran for more than six months and toured throughout Mexico over the next decade.

“I directed it originally in Spanish in 2011,” says Noriega. “With the theater company I founded, Teatro Travieso (Troublemaker Theatre), I debuted the English version in 2014.”

When adapting it into English, Noriega fleshed the work out to feature four actresses.

“Each actress plays two or three characters,” he says. “I worked to connect the dots between which roles they play. I had the option the first time of using professional actresses, but I wanted to use women young enough for them to relate to the audience.”

Since the English version’s debut, the play has been performed 28 times in the U.S., Canada and Belgium, including shows at Dartmouth College, Yale University and Cornell University. In 2015, Teatro Travieso received an award for Making Theatre an Important Catalyst for Sociopolitical Change during the Kennedy Center’s American College Theater Festival.

“The performance at Southern started our fourth year of the tour,” says Noriega. “I never imagined it would be such a long-term production.”

In addition to serving as director of the theater company, Noriega serves as an associate professor of theater at the College of Wooster in Ohio. He received his Ph.D. in theater arts in 2011 from Cornell University.

The level of success he has found with the production comes as little surprise to his former professors, says Anne Jaros – associate professor of theater at Missouri Southern and current chair of the department.

“Jimmy was an outstanding student, and we knew he was going to do something wonderful,” she says. “He was always driven to success.”

“He was very good at finding a way to do the things he wanted to get done. We always trusted him to do a good job, and he never disappointed. He was the kind of student every teacher wants to have in class.”

Noriega says he was excited to return to Southern, and for the opportunity to meet with current theater students to talk about his experiences.

“Southern is where I started learning about direction,” he says. “The last production I directed there would have been in 2005. It was kind of exciting to bring my most successful show to the place where I started.”

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A portrait of Greg Arend, a middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark pinstripe suit, white shirt, and blue patterned tie. He is standing in front of a large window with vertical blinds. The text 'SET THE MARK HIGH' is overlaid on the image in large white letters.

'SET THE MARK HIGH'

Consultant Greg Arend, '82, delivers Spring Commencement address

Greg Arend is no stranger to crisis.

A 1982 Missouri Southern graduate who now lives in Tulsa, Okla., Arend works for Deloitte, a global network of business consulting firms that provide audit, financial advisory, risk management, tax and related services to clients.

He was Deloitte's lead client service partner during the housing and mortgage crisis that began in 2008-09. He worked with client executives and members of the legislative and executive branches to address complex issues facing the banking and housing industries.

"The banking crisis was very chaotic," Arend says. "The government was out of money. Had Uncle Sam not stepped in and raised ceilings and taken actions to provide liquidity to the marketplace, it could have been far worse."

Other catastrophes addressed by Arend, on behalf of Deloitte clients, were California's Northridge earthquake, hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and Joplin's 2011 tornado.

All of those disasters, he says, possessed one major commonality.

"Whenever there is significant financial loss, there will be lots of money coming in at incredible speed in incredible amounts," he says. "Visualize it like a rainstorm. The money is raining down. The chance for waste, fraud and abuse skyrockets. Our job is to get the money out the door in a controlled atmosphere and make sure it gets to the people who need it."

Arend, who graduated from Missouri Southern magna cum laude with an accounting degree, returned to campus to deliver the keynote address during Spring 2017 Commencement ceremonies on Saturday, May 13.

Over the last decade, Arend has also become a recognized leader and advocate on the importance of diversity and inclusion in creating high-performance teams.

"It's become a big part of who I am personally," he says. "For the first couple of decades, I was fairly oblivious to the whole topic of diversity. Then I moved from Tulsa, one of the least diverse areas of the nation, to Washington, D.C., arguably one of the most diverse cities in the U.S., if not the world."

He says a move across the country expanded his perspective.

"When I got there, I saw that my teams consisted of all different types of people, just a melting pot of folks. I absolutely personally grew. It helped me to understand their perspectives, their journeys ... It evolved me as a person, as well as a professional."

Having since returned to Tulsa, Arend was recognized in 2015 as a Man of Distinction by Tulsa Business and Legal News. He was also given special recognition by Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao for the Labor Department's American Heroes at Work Initiative, and received a 2012 Outstanding Leaders Award from the federal Audit and Enterprise Risk Services organization.

Arend, who grew up in the Southwest Missouri community of Monett, married his wife, Linda, during his senior year of college at Missouri Southern. The two are parents of a grown daughter, Lacey.

"My world pretty much revolves around Linda and Lacey," he says.

If a young person came to Arend and said he or she wanted to be a leader, what would his advice be?

"No. 1, be true to yourself," he says. "No. 2, follow your passions. Decide what you want to lead and how you want to lead it, and remember to set the mark high. Some people are great managers but not great leaders. You need to make people want to follow you. That's what it takes to be a leader."

GETTING A

Kick OUT OF LIFE



Freshman Autumn Roberts puts black-belt skills to work

As she nears pro-fighter status, Autumn Roberts – a freshman criminal justice major from Springfield – is passing on her knowledge to others on campus.

The 18-year-old teaches a kickboxing class – a combination of karate and kickboxing – two days a week in Missouri Southern's Beimdiek Recreation Center. Roberts says her interest in the sports emerged from being one of three adopted children among seven brothers and sisters.

"My mother wanted to do something to unify us as a family, so she enrolled us in taekwondo," Roberts says. "My instructor, Richard Osborn, is a former kickboxer. He saw something in me and wanted to train me. That's how it all began."

Roberts says she trained for about eight months before winning her first competition. Since then, she has won two more.

Her parents and siblings have actively supported her efforts, while her younger sisters have worked as ring girls during competitions. She says the two sports provide structure and discipline.

"I know I wouldn't be in college today if I hadn't started," she says.

Roberts recently reached taekwondo black belt status. And with two more kickboxing fights, she could become a pro fighter. However, she thinks she will be happy in simply reaching that status and then turn to working on a career in criminal justice.

"The structure prepares a kickboxer mentally for handling any given situation," she says. "We get in the situation and do sparring. It has greatly protected the students who then can defend themselves better."

She says her youngest student is 2. The oldest is 74. Many of her students at Missouri Southern are international students who may not have the opportunity to obtain training in the sports in their home countries.

"Kickboxing is for really active people," she says. "Taekwondo is for anyone and everyone."



A portrait of Dr. Maggie Beachner, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a black cardigan over a light-colored, ruffled top and a thin gold necklace. The background is a blurred office or classroom setting with computer monitors.

VOICES OF SOUTHERN

Dr. Maggie Beachner
Assistant Professor
Teacher Education

One of the things I love about working in higher education is that no day is the same ... except in one regard. Education is a field where you leave every day and truly feel like you've made a difference.

But working in higher-ed isn't something I grew up considering as a career. I had some fabulous mentors along the way who helped guide me where I am today. And now that I'm here – wrapping up my second year at Missouri Southern – I can't see myself doing anything else.

I've been very blessed and feel so lucky to be a college professor, especially now. There are a lot of changes happening at MSSU, both in my department and at the university as a whole. It's exciting to be a part of it.

My biggest focus, second from teaching, is coordinating our graduate programs. We're seeing a huge boost in applications, which is translating into enrolled students.

Enrollment has grown to the point where we're going to add another cohort to our Master's in Educational Administration program. The Master's in Curriculum and Instruction is also booming, in part because of how flexible the online offerings make it, but also because students are only required to take 18 hours of core classes. The other 18 hours of graduate study are completely up to them, allowing them to create something of an emphasis area. I think that's very appealing.

Something else I am excited about is my first research project here at Missouri Southern. Along with a few others in the department, I'm working on a study to analyze our students' experience with substitute teaching.

We're surveying students who have completed 60 hours or more to find out how many of our students have had experience as a substitute teacher, what led them to make that decision – or why not, for those who haven't – and what they gained from it.

If our students can sub before they get jobs, it just adds to the clinical experience that they have in the classroom, helps them with classroom management and more.

And if the survey shows that the experience is benefitting them, our challenge will then be to make it so they have the opportunity to get that experience as part of their education.

I believe that this kind of work serves an important purpose. It makes our students feel like they're involved in decisions we're making as a department and that will ultimately affect them – not just at the basic class level or program level, but in their teaching career. It gives them that much more buy-in.

Students know when their teachers are thinking “big picture.” They see when an assignment is relevant to their own lives. They get it. And building that kind of a relationship with your students is what it's all about.

To learn more about the opportunities available in the Teacher Education program at Missouri Southern, visit www.mssu.edu/teacher-ed.



TRUMPET ENSEMBLE INCLUDED IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

When you have just one shot at impressing the judges, every note counts.

That's why the eight members of Missouri Southern's trumpet ensemble spent the spring semester focusing on the finer details of Erik Morales' "Infinite Ascent" – the selection they performed during the 2017 National Trumpet Competition.

The ensemble was selected as one of 16 from around the country to compete at the event, held March 23-25 in Denver, Colo. They competed against peers from Oklahoma State, Baylor, Texas Tech, Southern Methodist University and others, and reached the semifinal round.

The focus of their intense rehearsal schedule leading up to the competition was to create a pristine performance.

"The song has a lot of highs and lows," says freshman Valentin Vizcaino. "It starts out very beautifully, and about a third of the way through it picks up the pace. Everyone is doing their own thing before coming together at the end. It's an intricate piece ... very complicated."

Trumpet professor Freddie Green says the eight students – including Jemetrius Brown, Tyler Jones, William Roach, Oliver Smith, Austin Kinard, Jalen Ybarra, Tony Sfortunato and Vizcaino – were extremely dedicated to performing at an elite level.

"They did a wonderful job in pushing and motivating themselves," says Green. "I was proud to see their progress and maturity through this process."

The competition also provided students a chance to attend master classes and clinics, attend concerts by international artists and visit with representatives from potential graduate schools.

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL OFFERS SECOND PRODUCTION

The annual Missouri Shakespeare Festival will add a second production to the mix when it is presented June 19-24 in the Bud Walton Theatre.

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” will be staged along with “The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).” The latter is a comic take on the Bard that zips through 37 plays in 97 minutes, says Dr. Jim Lile, theater professor and coordinator of the festival.

“That has always been our goal ... to have two productions running in repertoire during the summer,” says Lile. “The Complete Works’ eases us into that, and there are only three actors in that show. Ultimately, we want to have two shows – a comedy and a tragedy – every year.”

Fundraising efforts are underway to offer visiting actors a stipend for their participation. Visit www.mssu.edu/give-moshakes for more information.

“The Complete Works” will open the festival and trade off nights with “Midsummer.” Tickets for each production is \$10. For more information, visit www.mssu.edu/moshakes.



GAROUTTE JOINS TEAM TO DEVELOP LAB EXPERIMENTS

Dr. Michael Garoutte has been approved for a sabbatical in the spring of 2018 as part of an effort that will help create learning tools that can be utilized by students around the United States.

As one of the co-principal investigators on a multi-university team, Garoutte applied for the sabbatical to help develop laboratory experiments (such as how to determine the melting point of solids) that can be used to teach general chemistry.

“We’ve submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation and applied for a grant,” Garoutte says. “The idea is to create inquiry-based experiments and fully develop them with a set of instructions and teacher notes so that others can use it.”

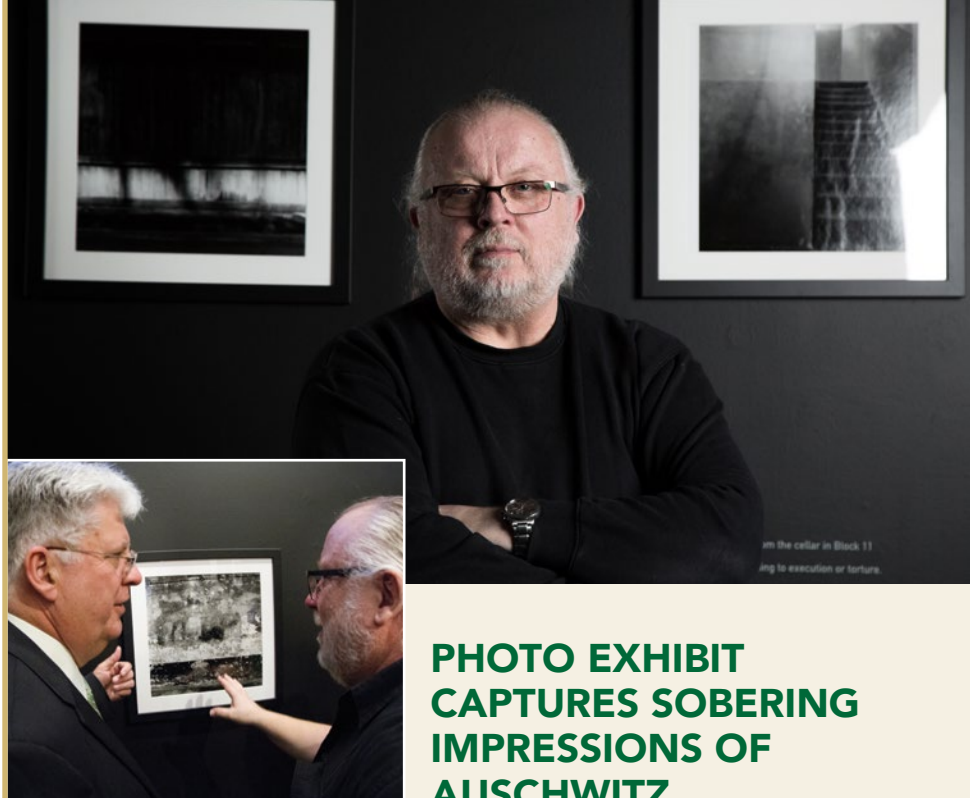


PHOTO EXHIBIT CAPTURES SOBERING IMPRESSIONS OF AUSCHWITZ

Renowned photographer Örfan Henriksson offered a sobering exhibit of photography taken at a concentration camp during an exhibit held Feb. 20-March 17 in Spiva Art Gallery.

The black and white photos featured in “Auschwitz KZ I-II” were a meditative study of light, texture and composition at the camp. Henriksson, who has had a longstanding relationship with Missouri Southern’s Art Department via the Summer in Sweden program, felt it was important to approach the subject in a manner that would speak to those viewing the exhibit in a way that they might not expect.

“My father told me when I was young that he wanted me to learn about the time period before World War II to see if the signs ever came up again,” says Henriksson. “Later, I saw a BBC documentary on another concentration camp, and it was so beautifully photographed.

“I thought maybe my approach could be to make beautiful black and white prints that people would be attracted to. There are no swastikas or signs ... just my impressions. (My pictures) speak with a soft voice ... more of a whisper. People need to get close for the context.”

Henriksson has lectured and taught photography at Malmö Folkhögskola, University of Jönköping and at Missouri Southern. His works include both fine art and commercial photography. He compares his approach to photography – the art of capturing a “magic moment” – to penning a beautiful letter.

“If the handwriting is beautiful but there’s no message, you just enjoy the handwriting,” he says. “If the handwriting is less good but there’s a good story, it’s more interesting. If you can combine nice writing with a nice story ... then you have a good photograph.”



JUNIOR AARON SMITH ATTENDS PURE IDEA GENERATOR EVENT

It all started with an idea ... and then a Tweet.

Junior Aaron Smith was selected last fall as a finalist for St. Louis University's Pure Idea Generator Challenge, spending an afternoon atop the City Museum with 23 others as they pitched ideas to local entrepreneurs. The accounting major is a member of Missouri Southern's Entrepreneurship Club.

"I heard about the contest through the club," says Smith. "You had to tweet them and pitch an idea to St. Louis University's entrepreneurship center. They picked the most original and creative ideas." The parameters of the contest were to combine two existing technologies to create "the next big thing."

"My idea was a water bottle that tracks how much water you drink and then syncs with your personal fitness device," says Smith.

The finalists gathered on the museum rooftop and were given a new challenge by the mayor of St. Louis: Develop ideas for how the city can attract and retain graduates into the local job market. To get the creative juices flowing, the finalists developed ideas while riding in the museum's three-story Ferris wheel.

"Our group came up with a work-for-tuition incentive program," says Smith. "It would help reduce tuition rates while connecting students with local businesses. It would give them more of a connection to the city ... more than just the place where they go to school.

"It was really cool, and the thing I took away was the importance of the pitch. We met with business leaders to find out what they're looking for when they hear your pitch. It can be nerve-wracking, but if your idea is good enough, it's a lot easier to stand behind it."

Missouri Southern's Entrepreneurship Club is now in its second year on campus.

"The club was created to promote entrepreneurship and what that means in today's society," says Ken Surbrugg who, along with Karen Bradshaw, serves as a staff advisor to the group.

AUTOMATION MINOR OFFERS HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE

Launched in Fall 2016, the new automation minor program is giving students hands-on experience that will prove invaluable in the workforce.

“It’s a program that was recommended by our advisory board,” says Dr. Elke Howe, chair of the Engineering Technology department. “Even if some manufacturing companies aren’t automated yet, it’s bound to happen in the years to come.”

The 18-credit-hour minor gives students experience with equipment and techniques that can simulate how products are made as well as to develop improvement processes. Last year, Leggett & Platt’s Automotive Group donated a new industrial robot in support of the program.

“We’ve got some good equipment,” says James March, an assistant professor in the Engineering Technology program. “We have the robot and a CNC (Computer Numerically Controlled) machine for the automatic fabrication of parts, and a manufacturing cell integrated with conveyors, inspection devices and sensors for semi-realistic manufacturing.

“A lot of companies both locally and nationally need skilled people who are able to install, design, operate and maintain automatic equipment. With electronics becoming cheaper, automation is definitely becoming much more prevalent in industry.”

STUDENTS TO TRAVEL TO UKRAINE, GERMANY

Eighteen undergrad and graduate students will travel to Ukraine and Germany in May, getting a firsthand glimpse at aspects of international businesses beyond their classroom textbooks.

“They’ll be able to look at and compare countries within the European Union,” says Dr. Chris Moos, Interim Dean of the School of Business, who will lead the trip. Germany is a member state of the EU, while Ukraine has taken steps toward membership.

“Our graduate students – who are working on their master of science in management degree – will be able to view their management styles, techniques and laws.”

Rebecca Ross, a junior international business major, says she’s already brushing up on her language skills in preparation.

“Right now I’m learning German and I’ll be taking Russian before we go on the trip,” she says. “I want to connect with other people and learn more about business there.”



The Engineering Technology department hosted more than 100 area middle- and high-school students for the annual Technology Student Association Conference in February. Hosted by the Engineering Technology Department, the event included competition categories such as Technology Problem Solving, Humanoid Robotic Dance, Debating Technology Issues, Technology Bowl and Forensic Technology.



NEW PRACTICUM GIVES EDUCATION MAJORS AN EARLY START IN THE CLASSROOM

A new practicum at Missouri Southern is moving future elementary school teachers into the classroom earlier.

Education 415 takes place the semester before student teaching. Students spend all day in an elementary school classroom on Wednesdays. They attend classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays but get a substitute certificate and are free to substitute on Mondays and Fridays.

Sheila Damer, director of Clinical Field Experiences, says students are taking part in elementary school classes in Joplin, Webb City and Carthage. One student has also been placed into an elementary school in Grove, Okla.

“This practicum will better prepare our future teachers by giving them an earlier authentic experience in a school setting,” says Dr. Deborah Brown, dean of the School of Education. “It combines several smaller practicums into a more integrated experience.”

“It is important to get candidates out in the field early to begin the connections between theory and practice,” says Lorinda Hackett, Teacher Education department chair.

Damer says Education 415 candidates can be placed in grades 1 through 6 (although most schools only offer classes through the fifth grade). During the spring semester, a total of 18 teacher candidates are taking part in Education 415. Currently, the practicum is only being offered to Elementary Education majors.

“We plan on reviewing the results and we hope to expand the concept to middle schools in the future,” Damer says.

KINESIOLOGY CO-SPONSORS ARCHERY SHOOTOUT

Area school districts participated in the Academy Outdoors Shootout on March 4 at the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center – an event coordinated by a School of Education graduate.

This year's archery tournament was sponsored by the MSSU Department of Kinesiology, Academy Outdoors and American Whitetail. School systems at Carl Junction, Carthage, Joplin and Sarcoxie (The SW Missouri Archery Alliance) were co-hosts.

Elementary, middle- and high-school divisions were included, as well as individual competitions.

Chelsi Leggett, a Carl Junction High School physical education teacher and archery coach, received her bachelor's in secondary education from Missouri Southern. She says Carl Junction is in its fifth year of competition in archery.

Leggett says local archery efforts are an outgrowth of the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP).

"It's not like any other sport. It's limitless," she says. "Any student can find success in the program. That doesn't necessarily mean a medal but it means they can see huge improvements of their starting point and ending point in one season based on their score."

Leggett was an athlete while attending school in Carl Junction where she participated in volleyball, basketball and track. She also hunted and fished with her father.

"It wasn't until I applied for the job at Carl Junction that I got serious about starting outdoor sports at Carl Junction," she states. "When given the go-ahead to get certified as an Archery instructor and bring NASP to our school, I jumped on it and there's been no turning back."

The Carl Junction team recently began practicing at a closed grocery store in Carl Junction. Every September the team holds an annual fundraiser with a chili feed, aerial archery, a dunk tank, Archery Tag and other events to cover utilities at the building and meet other expenses.



SOUTHERN ALUM ACCEPTS JOPLIN HIGH PRINCIPAL POSITION

Dr. Brandon Eggleston, a 1999 Teacher Education graduate at Missouri Southern, took over in July as principal at Joplin High School.

Eggleston attended Joplin's North Middle School as a child and graduated from Missouri Southern State University. Later he returned to North as principal for four years before accepting the job at JHS. Some may remember Eggleston from his days as a first baseman for the MSSU baseball team. He played with the team from 1993-1998.

"Every time my old teammates and I see each other, we are able to go back to that part of our life and enjoy some laughs and memories together," he said.

Eggleston says his father and mother were his primary role models.

"I still am blessed to have them in my life," he says. "Also, Coach Warren Turner had an impact on me, and I still lean on the lessons I learned from him."

Although serving in a leadership role can be demanding, he says it goes part and parcel with his original motivations to establish a career in education.

"It is a big job and I am busy, but I do have a balance," Eggleston says. "My three kids and my wife are my priority."



PEDIATRIC ASTHMA BECOMES FOCUS FOR RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

A brainstorming session on potential areas of focus for the Respiratory Care program at Missouri Southern may have people breathing easier.

“We identified that there seems to be a need for more education in the pediatric asthma arena, primarily at the school level,” says Glenda Pippin, director of the Respiratory Care department.

There were several state-funded grants available about five years ago for asthma education in schools, but they have since expired.

“A lot of those services where therapists were able to go into schools have gone away,” says Pippin. “Some of these kids don’t see doctors routinely, so sometimes it’s the school nurse who’s the person that might be able to intervene and get them a little extra care or maybe a referral.”

The department will host a symposium on pediatric asthma from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 30, in the North End Zone Facility. It will feature speakers and other programs designed to raise awareness of the issue, and will target school nurses, EMS workers, doctors and others in the health care field.

“There are so many kids who do have (asthma), so the schools need education,” says Sherry Whiteman, an instructor in the program and president of the Missouri Society for Respiratory Care. “The education that is provided so far doesn’t focus on pediatric asthma ... a lot of it is focused on adult care.”

Whiteman says there is a high incidence of pediatric asthma in the Southwest Missouri region due to high levels of allergens.

“If we can educate them as kids about this disease, they’re going to do a lot better as adults,” she says. “And if we can train (school nurses) and show them how to help kids manage it well, that’s going to do a lot for a patient.”

WORK UNDERWAY TO CREATE DENTAL HYGIENE BACHELOR'S DEGREE

The Dental Hygiene program at Missouri Southern is working to make a transition from the current associate of science in dental hygiene to a four-year bachelor's degree.

"Our timeline is to have the proposed curriculum and plan of study ready to propose to the School Curriculum Oversight Committee, the Academic Policies Committee and the Faculty Senate by September," says Stacie Scrivner, chair of the department.

From there, the proposed bachelor's program would go before the Board of Governors, the program's accrediting body and the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

Scrivner says more states are adopting the Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner model created by the American Dental Hygienists' Association – a program open to dental hygienists with a bachelor's degree that allows them to become preventive specialists, clinical researchers and more competitive in sales and other areas.

"(Having a bachelor's degree) will open more doors for our students and make them more marketable," she says. "We want to get our students out there and ready to go if they want to get their master's degree."



STATE NURSING BOARD APPROVES NEW COHORT

Missouri Southern has received approval from the Missouri State Board of Nursing to increase the number of students added to the university's nursing program each year.

Starting this fall, there will be a cohort of 45 students entering the nursing program in the fall and the spring, for a total of 90 each academic year.

Missouri Southern has previously admitted only a single cohort of 60 nursing students each fall.

The increase in student numbers comes in response to a nursing shortage. By producing nursing graduates in May and December each year, health care organizations will be able to address nursing vacancies in a more timely manner.



BOOK SALES TO SUPPORT NEW LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Drawing on his experience transitioning from a two-decade career as a physician to healthcare administration, Dr. Richard Schooler has authored a book focusing on achieving success with a strategic plan.

"Planning for Organizational Success: A Leadership Guide to Achieving Success with a Plan" – published by Dorrance Publishing Company in Pittsburgh, Penn. – offers a message he believes many young leaders are missing as they pursue their education.

Schooler, the Dean of Health Sciences, practiced as an OB/GYN physician in Joplin before becoming medical director and director of medical education for Freeman Health System. In 2006, he was named the hospital's chief medical officer, and in 2013 the executive vice president and chief operating officer.

That experience, along with leading the process of creating a strategic plan for the hospital following the devastating May 22, 2011, tornado that struck Joplin, helped him develop an appreciation for the importance of leadership. About a year and a half ago, he began to put his thoughts on paper about the critical importance of planning for organizations, as well as the dynamics of leadership and the importance of adaptability and accountability.

Available via Amazon, the Dorrance Publishing online bookstore and by contacting Schooler, book sales will help promote a new academic program in healthcare leadership and management that Schooler is working to introduce at Missouri Southern.



LIONS ATHLETICS

PUTTING HIMSELF ON THE LINE SENIOR LARS LINDQUIST BATTLES BACK FROM ILLNESS

Lindquist's story
of perseverance
and his desire
to come back
is definitely
reflective of his
personality and
willpower.

It was the spring of 2015 and Missouri Southern senior football player Lars Lindquist was working out in the weight room when he felt light-headed and tried to sit up.

When he got up, Lindquist blacked out. The next thing he remembers is waking up on the floor, covered in blood and soon being put into an ambulance.

"I had been having issues with my lungs for a little while and I thought it might have been a cold or allergies, so I didn't really pay too much attention to it," he said. "It progressed to shortness of breath and I started having issues sprinting without being entirely out of breath and almost passing out then. That wasn't me, I'm usually in much better shape than that."

What Lindquist was feeling would turn out to be a pulmonary embolism: a blood clot that usually starts out in the legs and travels to the lungs. Prompt treatment can greatly reduce the risk of death, but situations like this are very risky.

Missouri Southern athletic trainer Amanda Wolf saw Lindquist come out of the weight

room and collapse. She immediately rushed to treat Lars and that prompt attention helped him on his road to recovery.

“He was lying face down and wasn’t breathing normally,” Wolf said. “I rolled him over and began preparing to give him CPR, but once he rolled over, he began to breathe normally again.”

Not only did Lindquist recover, he got himself back in playing shape.

“Lars is very lucky to have had the opportunity to come back and play,” Wolf said. “He had to be very patient and put in a lot of work at the same time. For some, it would have been more than what they wanted to take on. It would have been easy to say, ‘I’m done with football.’ But Lars wanted to finish his college career on his own terms. He had a goal to come back and play football. And he did.”

Lindquist, a native of New Mexico, had to watch all of 2015 from the bench.

“It was really tough watching that season,” Lindquist said. “Those were my guys, the seniors that I came in with. Your natural instinct is to want to help and I felt I could have been a help. But we got through that and here I am.”

When he returned to the field, he also had to adjust to a new position. Coach Denver Johnson saw potential for him on the offensive line rather the other side of the ball. During the 2016 season, he started in all 11 games for the Lions.

“I had a lot of fun with this group of guys on the line,” Lindquist said. “Coach Bill Bleil is the best offensive line coach I’ve ever had and he definitely helped me out and refreshed me on my technique. He was very understanding and he just got me back and helped shake the rust off really fast.”

Lindquist’s story of perseverance and his desire to come back is definitely reflective of his personality and willpower.

“Lars wasn’t going to let this stop him from fulfilling his goal,” Wolf said. “So he listened to the doctors, listened to his body and did what he needed to come back and play.”

A professional and technical writing major, Lindquist will graduate in May and hopes to become a sports journalist.

“I like hearing the backgrounds of athletes,” he said. “There’s a lot of interesting stories and I like hearing champions speak. I would love to have the opportunity to help tell their stories.”



The Missouri Southern men’s and women’s basketball teams both qualified for the MIAA Tournament this year – the 20th straight appearance for the men. The men had four players named All-MIAA, with Elyjah Clark earning MIAA Freshman of the Year honors. The others were CJ Carr, Lawrence Brown and JJ Cratit. Deb Holcomb and Desirea Burege were named All-MIAA on the women’s side.



The men’s and women’s track and field teams both finished third at the MIAA Indoor Championships, and the program qualified eight individuals for the NCAA Indoor Championships. Two from the women’s squad (Allie Heckemeyer and Emily Presley) join six from the men (Bryan Burns, Kennan Harrison, Morgan Hold, Junior Joseph, Vincent Kiprop and Jordyn Manier) in making this year’s championship field.



SALLIE BEARD INDUCTED INTO MISSOURI SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Former Missouri Southern coach and Athletic Director Sallie Beard has joined the impressive ranks of those who have helped define athletics in Missouri.

Beard was inducted into the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame as part of the fourth-annual Women's Sports Luncheon presented by the Bee Payne-Stewart Foundation on March 30 in Springfield, Mo.

"If you had told me when I was a student at Missouri Southern that I would have been fortunate enough to have the career that I would have, I wouldn't have believed you," Beard said. "As I reflect on my career, I feel very fortunate to have the breadth of experience I was afforded. I am humbled and honored by the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame deciding to recognize my career."

Beard served Missouri Southern State University as both coach and athletic director for 37 years before her retirement in 2009. She single-handedly created women's athletics at Missouri Southern when she started the first women's sports teams, serving as head coach of basketball, softball, tennis, and track and field. For 25 years, she was the women's athletic director. In 2001, she was named the first athletic director to oversee both the men's and women's athletic programs at the university.

In 2014, Beard was awarded the Nike Lifetime Achievement Award by NACWAA, the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators. She is a member of the Missouri Southern State University Athletics Hall of Fame and the Joplin Sports Hall of Fame, and in 2010 she was inducted into the inaugural class of the MIAA Hall of Fame.



VINCENT KIPROP BREAKS RECORDS, SECURES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sophomore Vincent Kiprop kept up his winning pace during the 2016-17 year, breaking records in the process.

The distance runner from Kericho, Kenya, won his third national championship in March by taking the top spot in the 5,000 meters during the 2017 NCAA Division II Indoor National Championships in Birmingham, Ala. His time of 13:42:42 broke not only his Missouri Southern record by nine seconds, but the Division II National Championship meet record by two seconds.

Just a few short weeks later, he set a new facility record – and broke his own outdoor 5k record by 22 seconds – during the Washington University Invite. Kiprop finished the race in an NCAA automatic qualifying time of 13:53.74, 34 seconds in front of the second-place finisher in the race. The time is the fastest overall in Division II this year, and is the second-fastest time in the NCAA in all divisions.

He also holds national championship rankings in the indoor 5k, the outdoor 10k and cross country.

His success comes hot on the heels of a successful 2015-16 track and field season.

During his freshman year, the nursing major won the Division II National Championship in the 10,000 meter at the 2016 Division II Outdoor Championships. He was also a repeat champion at the MIAA and NCAA Division II meets.

"We are all getting to witness first-hand one of the most dominating distance runners the NCAA and Division II has seen," said Jared Bruggeman, Director of Athletics. "I think I speak for everyone here at Missouri Southern by saying we are very proud to have him wear the Green and Gold."



FRAZIER, SANTIAGO INDUCTED INTO MIAA HALL OF FAME

Former Missouri Southern point guard Eddin Santiago and former MSSU athletic director and football coach Jim Frazier have been inducted into the MIAA Hall of Fame.

Frazier led MSSU to the NAIA National Football Title during the 1972 season and is the school's all-time winningest football coach. Frazier would then serve as the director of athletics, where under his tenure, the school won 23 conference championships and one NCAA Division II National Championship. He helped in the development and improvement of several MSSU facilities including Young Gymnasium, Fred G. Hughes Stadium and the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center.

He was inducted into the MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1986.

Santiago was the Lions' starting point guard from 1998-2002 where he helped the team to MIAA and NCAA regional titles. The 1999-2000 season saw the Lions go 30-3 and advance to the NCAA Elite Eight, falling in the semifinals.

Santiago holds the MIAA career record in both steals and assists. His 383 career steals rank second all-time in Division II. He was a three-time first-team All-MIAA selection and was twice named an All-American earning MVP of the 2000 NCAA Division II Central Regional Tournament. Santiago is one of just 19 men's basketball players at Missouri Southern to score 1,000 points and is 16th all-time in MSSU history with 1,108 points.

Santiago was selected to the MSSU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2012.

The pair join five other individuals (Sallie Beard, Pat Lipira, Rod Smith, Tom Rutledge and Warren Turner) as well as the 1992 NCAA National Champion Softball Team as MSSU members of the MIAA Hall of Fame.



SOPHOMORE EMILY PRESLEY SETTING A HIGH BAR FOR SUCCESS

A sophomore at Missouri Southern State University is soaring to new heights as a member of the women's track and field team.

Emily Presley, a pole vaulter from St. Clair, Mo., won her event five meets in a row this spring and was named MIAA Co-Field Athlete of the Week three times. At the Pittsburg State track meet, she won the pole vault by clearing 14-00.00, which solidified her spot as the top pole vaulter in Division II.

Presley has been pole vaulting since seventh grade, when she attended a camp at Missouri Southern. She says her experience with the MSSU track and field team has been amazing.

"I am just super happy that we have the coaches and staff that we do here in the athletics department overall," she says. "I still have a lot of room to grow and I have a lot of goals that I have set for myself."

She says she has thought about going pro, and that she feels that she is on track to get there.

"I just need to stay on task because I have a set of tasks that I need to accomplish every season."

Presley says her favorite part about pole vaulting is the rush of adrenaline that comes along with it.

"I can practice all week and then I get to the meet and it's a whole new ball game," she says. "The adrenalin I get from clearing a big bar is like nothing else."



CLASS NOTES

Let us know what's going on in your life! Email us at alumni@mssu.edu

1970s

Dr. Ronald Lankford, '71, received the Robert C. Howe Service to Secondary Education Award from the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals.

Daniel Koch, '72, is the chairman, president and CEO of Wilmington Insurance Company in Wilmington, Del.

1980s

Tom Hempen, '81, is a sales manager at Joe Harding Sales & Service in Joplin.

Lori (Churchwell) Alburty, '84, is the office manager for Construction Adventures Inc. in Joplin.

Teresa (Athey) Boyer, '86, is a counselor at Carl Junction High School in Carl Junction, Mo.

Lee Elliff Pound, '86, received the ATHENA Leadership Award at the 2017 Carthage Chamber of Commerce Banquet. This is a nationally recognized award presented in recognition of those who support, develop and honor women leaders.

Randy Murawski, '86, retired from American Family Insurance after 25 years. He is now doing sports and programming research for OnMedia in Springfield, Mo., a division of Mediacom.

Scott Danley, '89, is a software engineer at Leggett & Platt in Carthage, Mo.

1990s

Erik Schrader, '90, is the vice president and general manager of WOIO-TV and WUAB-TV, Raycom Media's CBS and MY Network affiliates in Cleveland, Ohio.

Gina Robbins, '91, received the Golden Key Award from the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

Michelle Wood, '93, is the director of leadership annual giving at Missouri Southern State University.

Lacinda Powell, '94, is a jeweler and owner of Cindi's One Hour Jewelers in Joplin.

Barbara (Wagner) Roberts, '99, received the Administrative Faculty Committee of the Year Award for 2017 at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She works in the Admissions and Recruitment Department at UNLV.

2000s

Christopher McFall, '01, is the assistant director of respiratory therapy at Freeman Health System in Joplin.

Tyler Smith, '03, received the Emerging Leader of the Year Award from the Carthage Chamber of Commerce. This award is presented in recognition of individuals who further their career path or begin a new career path.

Jonathan Beville, '04, is the director of global sales and business development at Heyltx Corporation in Washington, D.C.

Amanda Powell, '05, completed doctoral studies and earned her Doctorate in Education in July 2016. She is an adjunct professor at Crowder College.

Derick White, '06, was cast as Chef Louis in the upcoming production of "The Little Mermaid" at Chaska Valley Family Theatre in Chaska, Minn.

Ashley Harmon, '08, along with her husband, Sean, received the Golden Hammer Award. This award is presented by Carthage Historic Preservation in recognition of an historic property being preserved in a historically appropriate manner.

Amy (Spry) Jones, '08, earned a master's of science degree in Reading with an emphasis as a Reading Specialist from Pittsburg State University.

2010s

Brooke (Lairmore) Rohlfing, '10, has been named as one of five Missouri School Public Relations Association members as a National School Public Relations "35 Under 35" awardee.

Dustin Sisney, '11, is a national ad sales manager for Storrs Media Inc. in Westlake Village, Calif.

Michelle (Martin) Bridgman, '11, a talent acquisition specialist at TAMKO Building Products, Inc. has been selected

Breck Mitchell, '17, has been accepted to the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at Southwest Baptist University.

IN MEMORIAM

STUDENTS

Lorenzo Jones

October 9, 2016

ALUMNI

Jack D. Day

Sept.30, 2016

Beverley A. Coiner

Oct. 1, 2016

Rodney J. Roberson, '80

Oct. 3, 2016

Donald R. Sewell, '16

Oct. 8, 2016

Susan L. Ernest, '82

Oct. 16, 2016

Terry C. Clark, '06

Oct. 24, 2016

Penny Moorehouse-Coates, '83

Oct. 27, 2016

Joyce Harrington, '75

Oct. 30, 2016

Melissa Meinhardt

Nov. 2, 2016

Edward L. Johnson, '48

Nov. 17, 2016

Christopher H. Reynolds, '94

Nov. 19, 2016

Amy E. Smith, '98

Nov. 24, 2016

Joyce Wilson-Cantrell, '64

Nov. 24, 2016

Susan D. Shriver, '08

Dec. 7, 2016

Dr. Karen (Stapp) Hatcher, '74

Dec. 8, 2016

Betty J. Robinson-Gray, '73

Dec. 27, 2016

Cathy Reichman-VanOstran, '85

Dec. 31, 2016

Linda Danner, '68

Jan. 2, 2017

Jene R. Baldwin, '66

Jan. 3, 2017

Robert C. Basye, '68

Jan. 10, 2017

Jose "Adam" Deras, '14

Jan. 10, 2017

Bobby D. Ballard, Sr.

Jan. 25, 2017

Peter R. Bodon, '81

Jan. 31, 2017

Harold L. Jacobs, '71

Feb. 5, 2017

Jessie L. (Souder) Davis, '65

Feb. 11, 2017

Gail V. Hurlbut, '98

Feb. 18, 2017

Jerald R. Martin, '76

Feb. 28, 2017

Jay Williams, '75

March 16, 2017

FRIENDS

David O. Cole

Sept. 29, 2016

James V. Doran

Oct. 1, 2016

Jerrold L. Riley

Oct. 5, 2016

Ed C. Zengel

Dec. 18, 2016

Mary Parrish Belk

Dec. 25, 2016

Herbert Casteel

Jan. 10, 2017

Dorothy Hemphill

Jan. 28, 2017

Kenneth Steele

Feb. 5, 2017

William Major

Feb. 11, 2017

Ethel Beechwood

Feb. 15, 2017

Tom Taylor

Feb. 16, 2017

Doris Elgin

March 17, 2017

FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Robert "Kip" Heth

Environmental Science

Dec. 14, 2016

Barbara Spencer

Criminal Justice 1973-2013

Feb. 19, 2017



MISSOURI SOUTHERN
FOUNDATION

Why I GIVE

DR. CAROLYN PRATER
JOPLIN, MISSOURI

Tom Ward was always a student at heart.

“He went to law school and, prior to that, he was a dentist,” says Dr. Carolyn Prater of her late husband. “After law school, he decided to go to medical school. Tom was a lifelong student ... being a student, being a teacher was his thing.”

Prater – a pediatrician at ACCESS Family Care – and her husband moved to Joplin in 1994. He joined the radiology department at what was then St. John’s Regional Medical Center. While there, he worked closely with the Radiology Department at Missouri Southern to help train students.

At that point in his life, he was in a wheelchair due to a degenerative spinal cord issue. But his condition did nothing to dampen his enthusiasm for teaching students about the profession.

“He was a man who could really set his mind to something,” says Prater. “He taught a lot of students and was very well respected in this area.”

When Tom passed away in June 2015, Prater established a patron’s scholarship in his name. The Dr. Thomas L. Ward Memorial Scholarship is awarded to two students each year – one to a first-year radiology student, and another to a second-year.

Prater said she was excited to be able to meet with two of the most recent recipients during a dinner for university donors.

“They were both really wonderful and I got to tell them about Tom,” she said. “They were exactly the kinds of students he would really like – he loved the kids who were energized and excited about the program.”

Donor-funded scholarships at MSSU come in all shapes and sizes. To discuss scholarship opportunities through the MSSU Foundation, please call 417-625-9615.



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